

U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Western District of New York

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PRESS RELEASE

April 23, 2004

RE: UNITED STATES v. DOUGLAS ZOLNER

United States Attorney Michael A. Battle announced today that Douglas Zolner, age 43, of Salamanca, New York, pled guilty before Hon. John T. Elfvin, United States District Court Judge to a felony Information, charging him with the illegal transport of hazardous waste, in violation of Title 42, United States Code, Section 6928(d), carrying a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment, a fine of \$50,000.00 per day of violation, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Martin J. Littlefield, who handled the case, stated that from 1995 to April 22, 2003 the defendant ran a furniture refinishing business known as Zolner Contract Finishing, located in leased space within a warehouse in Salamanca, New York. In December, 2002, Zolner's business was forced to leave the premises in which he had been accumulating hazardous wastes for 6 years. The defendant leased a trailer which he loaded with numerous 55-gallon drums and smaller containers of hazardous waste generated from his business. Zolner then had the trailer illegally moved to a parking area adjacent to railroad tracks, while also moving some of the waste to his garage at home. EPA and DEC investigators executed search warrants on April 22, 2003 seizing the

hazardous wastes, have taken steps to remove and dispose of all wastes – without any environmental harm.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William Lometti and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Environmental Conservation Investigations under the direction of Captain Gary Bobseine.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 30, 2004, at 1:00 p.m. in front of Hon. John T. Elfvin, United States Judge.

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